



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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UKRAINE

USAID Assistant Administrator Douglas Menarchik Visits Ukraine to Learn about USAID Programs in Crimea

During September 14-16, USAID Assistant Administrator Doug Menarchik, who oversees the Europe and Eurasia region, visited Simferopol and Sevastopol to learn about USAID's programs in Crimea. In Simferopol, Menarchik visited Maternity Hospital #2, a Maternity and Infant Health Excellence Center created through USAID's Maternal and Infant Health project, which implements evidence-based perinatal care in 18 regions of Ukraine. He met with Simferopol-based media to learn about the current political and media situation in Crimea. During a working lunch with alumni of USAID's Community Connections program, Menarchik discussed issues related to the public health sector in Ukraine, specifically, effective ways to fight HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination in Crimea.



USAID Assistant Administrator Doug Menarchik receives a plaque from Valeriy Saratov, head of the Sevastopol City Council.

In Sevastopol, Menarchik met with city authorities, and representatives of the business community and city council to discuss the city's experience with technical assistance provided by USAID's Local Economic Development project. Valeriy Saratov, head of the Sevastopol City Council, expressed his gratitude for USAID's support and satisfaction with strategic

planning results. Menarchik and Saratov also discussed additional technical assistance USAID might provide to the city. Menarchik reassured city officials and leaders of the United States' commitment to the welfare, and economic stability and growth of Crimea.

NGO of Certified Leasing Specialists Keeps Growing

The Certified Lease Specialist Union, an NGO launched last year with financial support from USAID's Access to Credit Initiative, held its third general meeting of leasing industry professionals at the beginning of August, which included an award ceremony.



The home page of LeasePro, the web portal for all industry professionals.

During the meeting, 12 individuals who had received certificates in recognition of their successful graduation from the Certified Leasing Specialist Program joined the NGO as new members. Since its establishment in early 2007, the Certified Lease Specialist Union has grown to 35 members and is on its way to sustainability.

As part of its public awareness and outreach campaign to promote the Certified Leasing Specialist Program and strengthen the certified leasing specialists community, the NGO has launched a website and created a newsletter.

The web portal LeasePro, and newsletter, Leasing for Professionals, were presented during the August general meeting.

The NGO is also working with the Association of Certified Leasing Specialists of Moldova to share experience and knowledge, and further promote the CLS designation in Ukraine and Moldova. The NGO was established to promote professional standards in the industry and unite all certified leasing specialists. The NGO's sponsorship of the CLS program helps to ensure sustainability and comes at an especially important time for Ukraine with its recent WTO accession and increasing global competition in financial markets.

IOM in Ukraine and Western Union Join to Support Victims of Human Trafficking

The International Organization for Migration Mission in Ukraine (IOM), which receives USAID assistance, and Western Union, the telegram company, recently launched a joint project to support integration for victims of human trafficking back into society. The Our World, Our Family program is a five-year commitment to create global economic opportunities through targeted philanthropy. A grant for \$25,000 received from the Western Union Foundation will be utilized to provide comprehensive reintegration assistance to 13 victims of trafficking, including males, females and minors.



Western Union Representative for Ukraine Mykhailo Babirenko and IOM Mission in Ukraine Counter-Trafficking Program Specialist Svittlana Batsyukova.

The project will focus on development and delivery of personalized reintegration packages for the victims, and will include a wide range of services, such as legal aid, vocational training, professional equipment, family or child allowances, psychological counseling and victim case monitoring.

USAID's Capital Markets Project Takes Part in Pension Journalists Training

USAID Capital Markets Project (CMP) International Pension Expert Gary Hendricks participated with Ukrainian government policy makers in a seminar for journalists on pension reform in Ukraine on July 29. Mr. Hendricks noted that current amendments pending in the Verkhovna Rada were essential to the safety of workers savings. He suggested focusing more attention on permitting investment of assets abroad. He pointed out that domestic securities might not meet new demands and that the threat of assets leaving domestic markets would provide strong incentives to hasten the development of local market discipline and quality asset management required to harness the investment potential of a large new influx of long-term capital from pension savings.



International Pension Expert Gary Hendricks comments on the draft concept paper on Further Pension Reform in Ukraine.

First Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Policy Pavlo Rosenko, Deputy Minister Olena Garyacha, and, Pension Fund of Ukraine Deputy Chairman Victor Kolbun (PFU) were key government speakers along with other PFU directors and international experts. Pension Fund of Ukraine Deputy Chairman Kolbun briefed journalists on a "Concept on Further Pension Reform in Ukraine," a draft document prepared for the Cabinet of Ministers. The document discussed the way forward in implementing pension accumulation accounts for all Ukrainian workers, including a timeline that pinpointed 2011 as the year for completing full implementation. The seminar was jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of Ukraine and the Pension Fund of Ukraine with support from USAID's CMP.

HIV/AIDS Alliance Holds SMT School

In July 2008 the "International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine" in partnership with the OSI International Harm Reduction Program conducted its third annual summer school in HIV/AIDS advocacy for local HIV-service organizations.



Summer School Participants.

This year the participants discussed implementation of substitution and maintenance therapy (SMT) for drug users with a focus on learning how to advocate for the rights of clients to obtain substitution maintenance therapy in their regions. Participants learned how to draft and implement projects directed at overcoming obstacles to ensuring access to SMT programs for vulnerable populations.

Twenty representatives of HIV-service organizations from all regions of Ukraine attended the school. The majority of the represented organizations implement projects under USAID's "Scaling up the National Response to HIV/AIDS through Information and Services" Program (SUNRISE). Major fields of discussion covered advocacy theory, general overview of the SMT programs, their strengths and weaknesses; setting targets and objectives to solve specific SMT advocacy challenges; and training in efficient communicating with mass media.

USAID Regional Mission for Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus

19 Nizhniy Val Street, 04071 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel: (380 44) 537-4600;
Fax: (380 44) 537-4684
<http://ukraine.usaid.gov>

BELARUS

CNFA Organizes an Open Discussion on Agriculture

More than 30 stakeholders representing various segments of Belarusian agriculture, from farmers to government agencies, took part in a September 17 conference entitled "Diversification of Capital and the Development of Agricultural Production." The event was sponsored by the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA) and hosted by the Kuniavsky Business Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers (BUEE). The event was a forum for those willing to express their opinion on the current state of Belarusian agriculture.



CNFA makes its points.

CNFA implements a Farmer-to-Farmer program, whose role in Belarus has been to increase the incomes of private farms and employees and to establish models of successful private enterprise throughout the country. To date, the program has implemented about 70 volunteer assignments in Belarus aimed at promoting modern production practices and teaching farmers to make educated and timely business decisions. Most of the assistance has largely been concentrated in the areas of dairy management and production, feeds and forage development, perennial grass production, and livestock management. The conference wrapped up the current phase of the CNFA Agribusiness Volunteer Program in Belarus.

USAID Representative Office in Belarus

46 Starovilenskaya Street
Minsk, Belarus 220002
Tel: +375 17 210 1283 Fax: +375 17 211 3032
<http://belarus.usaid.gov>